



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Town of Belmont
Homer Municipal Building
19 Moore Street
Belmont, Massachusetts 02478-0900
Telephone: (617) 993-2650 Fax: (617) 993-2651

Date: February 13, 2013
To: All Rock Meadow Community Gardeners
From: Mary Trudeau, Agent for the Belmont Conservation Commission & Rock Meadow Garden Administrator

Welcome, Gardeners!

While the recent weather is a bit daunting, the opening of the Gardens is approaching! Registration/Rental forms are attached to this email, and are due back by **MARCH 26, 2013**. Rentals are through the Belmont Conservation Commission, and checks shall be payable to the Town of Belmont. As in years past, Kathy Martin is serving as the Garden Coordinator and will coordinate the day to day operations of the gardens as well as supervising the mandatory Spring Work Day on April 6, 2013. (see below for more on this activity!)

Exciting News:

The Community Gardens have contracted with a local nursery to grow a variety of blight resistant tomatoes for distribution to the gardeners. We anticipate being able to provide (6) plants of several varieties to each gardener, with some additional plants being available at a small cost. This is an experimental program, you do not need to participate, but we are hoping to improve garden yields by the use of these tomatoes. These plants will be distributed in late May or early June.

The garden has also applied for a Community Preservation Act grant to allow for the improvement of the water distribution system within the gardens. The goal is to increase both the number of water spigots, and the available pressure. This work is unlikely to be started before the growing season, but may begin in early fall of 2013. While much of the work will be contracted, there will be opportunities for volunteering!

How are garden plots allocated?

- If you are a returning gardener, you can preserve your existing rental by sending in the registration form and annual dues by **March 26, 2013 AND** attending the work day on April 6, 2013.
- Returning gardeners who wish to change plots are granted first choice of the available plots; this is done according to the order in which the requests were received.
- If you are a new gardener, you will be assigned a plot from the remaining plots, again, according to the order in which requests submitted were received.

Registration, Rental Fees, and Spring Work Day

Rental Fees for a garden plot will be \$50.00 dollars this year. The Gardens are a self funded entity. We are now required to pay for trash disposal, by an outside contractor, this is a new and unavoidable expense. Fees will continue to provide water, compost and an occasional load of wood chips. There are communal lawn mowers, weed whackers and wheel barrows available, and for the first time this year, we will also be providing organic pest and disease control products to interested gardeners.

Please complete the attached Registration Form, and return to me with a check for \$50.00 dollars to cover your rental fee. **If I do not receive a registration form and fee by this date, your plot WILL be rented to another gardener.** The Registration form now allows gardeners to make additional donations of support for the garden, and if you are able, this gesture will help off-set fees for those less fortunate. All questions about registration should be directed to: Mary Trudeau, Conservation Commission Administrator at (617)993-2667. **In any case, the deadline for Registration is March 26, 2013.**

April 6, 2013 (Saturday) Spring Work Day and Allocating of Plots

All returning gardeners are expected to be at the gardens on April 6, 2013 for the annual Spring Work Day and Allocating of Plots. Bruce Westgate and Kathy Martin will be managing the work party, and every able gardener is expected to participate. The Work Day will start at 9:00 am, and garden assignments will be made around noon. Garden assignments will only be made to pre notified applicants...if you are on the waiting list and have not been contacted to attend the work day, it is unlikely that you will be assigned a garden this year. Please do not attend the work day and expect an assignment as gardens are allotted by rank on the wait list, not presence at the work day.

What happens on the Work Day?

The spring work day is important. It is currently the only time the gardeners work together to do much needed maintenance on the gardens. What you can expect to be doing includes removing trash and debris from the gardens and depositing these materials in a dumpster; reestablishing communal walking paths through the garden; digging and pulling out, and cutting back invasive plants such as Bittersweet vines, Black Swallowort vines, and Buckthorn bushes that are threatening the gardens. Compost processing is been an ongoing project, and will require some volunteerism on the work day, as well. **Wear work clothes and bring garden gloves.** We will provide some tools, but it is helpful if you bring your own clippers, loppers or shovels. (You might want to label these with your name.)

We also want the work day to be fun and social! Think about bringing a bag of bagels, a box of donuts or a carton of coffee and taking the opportunity to meet and greet old and new faces. Photos of the day are always welcome, and will be appreciated!

The work day will happen rain or shine and is unlikely to be rescheduled. Please assume that attendance is a pre requisite for being assigned a garden!

If you have any questions or concerns, you can email me at mtrudeau@belmont-ma.gov. I look forward to seeing you on April 6, 2013!



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Town of Belmont

Homer Municipal Building

19 Moore Street

Belmont, Massachusetts 02478-0900

Telephone: (617) 993-2650 Fax: (617) 993-2651

REGISTRATION FOR GARDEN SPACE

AT ROCK MEADOW COMMUNITY GARDENS, BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
2013 Growing Season

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

I am a returning gardener _____ I want my old garden reassigned to me _____

The 2013 Garden Rental Fee is \$50.00 dollars**. If you would like to help fund the gardens, and assist those who are unable to afford the annual fee, we are offering the following levels of support:

Garden Rental 2011 Season:	\$50.00 dollars
Garden Friend	\$60.00 dollars
Garden Benefactor	\$75.00 dollars
Garden Patron	\$100.00 dollars

** If you have any questions, please contact Mary Trudeau at (617)993-2667 or mtrudeau@belmont-ma.gov. Fees include water service, compost products, and twice annual trash disposal.

Please mail this completed form AND your check payable to: **TOWN OF BELMONT:**

Mary Trudeau
Conservation Commission
19 Moore Street – Homer Building
Belmont, MA 02478

Please Note: Payment and Registration are due by MARCH 26, 2013!!!!
If you do not submit a registration form by this date, your garden WILL be reassigned.

